

Serial No. 09/741,542
Filed: December 20, 2000

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 5, second paragraph, amend the paragraph to read as follows:

-- The tubes are made of a material which stays elastic at lower temperatures, such as -20 degrees Celsius ("°C"). It has been found that polypropylene is suitable for this purpose. --

On page 5, fourth paragraph, amend the paragraph to read as follows:

-- The storage racks with the tubes containing the aliquots are stored in a cold room (shown in Fig. 4). The cold room is humidity-controlled and kept at a temperature of -20° Celsius. The cold room is equipped with vertical shelf partition walls 11 having support elements 12 extending therefrom. The support elements are provided with inclined upper edges 13 for the purpose of centering the racks 1 resting thereon. --

In the Claims:

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A rack for use in a compound handling system for handling a multiplicity of tubes containing aliquots of chemical or biological samples, which comprises: